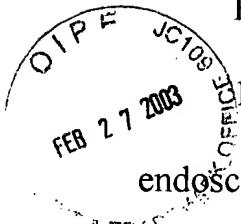


U.S. Application Serial No.: 09/648,660
Atty. Docket No.: 4926

CLAIMS REVISIONS



Please amend claims 1, 4, 10-13 as follows:

1. (Amended) Fluid sealing apparatus for operation with an endoscopic instrument at a surgical site, the apparatus comprising:
a body having a central bore dimensioned to receive an endoscopic instrument therein, the bore extending through the body between distal and proximal ends thereof;
an element disposed about the body near one of the distal and proximal ends thereof for selectively expanding laterally outwardly [from] about the body; and
a fluid seal disposed about the body near the other of the distal and proximal ends having an aperture therethrough substantially aligned with the central bore through the body, and having an inner dimension resiliently and flexibly disposed to receive an endoscopic instrument therein in sliding fluid-sealing engagement therewith.

4. (Amended) An endoscopic surgical procedure performed through an access port, the procedure comprising:
forming an incision in tissue;

dissecting tissue to form an anatomical space in tissue in communication with the incision;

inserting the access port within the incision and anatomical space; [in fluid-sealing engagement with tissue about the incision;]

laterally outwardly expanding the portion of the access port inserted within the incision to form fluid-sealing engagement with tissue about the incision;

inserting an endoscopic instrument into the anatomical space through the access port;

forming a fluid-tight seal in the access port in response to insertion of the endoscopic instrument in the access port;

insufflating the anatomical space with fluid under pressure during formation of the fluid-tight seal; and

deflating the anatomical space inflated with fluid under pressure upon termination of the fluid-tight seal about an endoscopic instrument within the access port.

10. (Amended) An access port kit including:
 - a body having a central bore therethrough between distal and proximal ends thereof;

an element disposed about the body near the distal end thereof for selectively expanding laterally outwardly from the body;

a plurality of resilient fluid seals for forming fluid-tight seals near the proximal end of the body, each including a resilient aperture therethrough of selected different dimensions disposed to axially align with the central bore in the body in position individually supported thereon.

11. (Amended) An access port kit including:

a body having a central bore therethrough between distal and proximal ends thereof;

an element disposed about the body near the distal end thereof for selectively expanding laterally outwardly from the body;

at least one resilient fluid seal for attachment in fluid-tight engagement with the body near the proximal end thereof, and including a resilient aperture therethrough of selected dimension to axially align with the central bore upon attachment to the body; and

an auxiliary resilient fluid seal for insertion within the resilient aperture of the resilient fluid seal to form a fluid-tight seal therewith, including an aperture therein of smaller dimension than the resilient aperture of the resilient gas seal for forming a sliding, substantially fluid-tight seal about a cylindrical member of sectional dimension larger than the aperture in

the auxiliary resilient fluid seal and smaller than the aperture in the resilient fluid seal.

12. (Amended) A sealing member for an insufflation access port having a body with a central bore therethrough between distal and proximal ends thereof, the sealing member for attachment to the proximal end of the body, comprising:

a hollow cylinder of resilient material having a distal end disposed to insert within the central bore of the body at the proximal end thereof and including an outwardly extending flange integrally formed on the proximal end of the cylinder to overlay the proximal end of the body, the flange including an aperture therethrough in position to substantially align with the central bore of the body upon attachment thereto for receiving therein an endoscopic instrument in fluid-tight sliding sealing engagement within the aperture.

13. (Amended) The sealing member according to claim 12 for attachment to the body of an access port having a recessed groove about the periphery of the body near the proximal end thereof, the flange of the sealing member comprising:

a substantially cylindrical section extending substantially concentrically with the hollow cylinder toward the distal end thereof to

overlay the proximal end of the body and [terminating] terminate with an inwardly intruding rim integrally formed with the cylinder section[,] and the flange and the hollow cylinder, said rim being dimensioned and positioned to engage the recessed groove about the periphery of the body in fluid-tight sealing engagement therein.